GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4081
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2002
PURCHASING OF CARTRIDGES
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IAF has purchased thirty-four thousand explosive cartridges from abroad despite availability of the same in Indian Ordnance Factories at cheaper rates;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether there is any proposal to enquire into the matter and to fix the accountability and responsibility of the officials concerned; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to check the wasteful expenditure in the defence forces in all spheres?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): Yes Sir, Air Headquarters have made an urgent purchase of 41955 explosives release cartridges at the time of Kargil Operation to fill up 30 days of War Waging Reserve (WWR) deficiencies.Stock purchased was as per laid down scales to meet emergent requirement during war time. During the period DGOF did not have the production capacity to manufacture and supply the required quantity. In view of the nature of requirement and in view of the capacity constraint of the DGOF, the procurement was undertaken in conformity with existing procedures.